



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

*State of Louisiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY

Colleagues,

As you are aware, the Governor issued Executive Order BJ-09-13 creating the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force. As part of this Executive Order, the Governor ordered all departments, agencies, boards, commissions and budget units of the executive branch of state government to pursue all reasonable and economically prudent opportunities available to allow an increase in the amount of Louisiana shrimp procured for meals or food provided.

In keeping with the spirit of this directive, I urge each agency to examine its procurement processes to assess the immediate steps that may be undertaken to incorporate Louisiana shrimp into any food sales, service or distribution.

In its first official meeting, the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force has assessed that there is a very large amount of shrimp currently being held in cold storage at a significant overall cost and detriment to the industry. Though the reasons for this abundance are many and certainly require much attention at the federal level, the immediate purchase and movement of this quality product would be extremely beneficial for the industry.

The positive effect of purchasing Louisiana shrimp may include a reduction in the amount of funds currently being utilized to pay storage costs, thereby potentially raising the amount funds available to purchase incoming harvests. With the onset of white shrimp season, the time is ripe for both private sector and state agencies to reach out and purchase the existing and future quality product. Freeing up additional storage will also enable continued purchases of harvests as shrimp brought to the dock.

Please have your agency submit the above-referenced assessments as well as the steps that it will take to incorporate Louisiana Shrimp into food sales, service and/or distribution. I look forward to your response, which can be communicated directly to me.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Barham  
Secretary